

JORDAN TIMES


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جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Ethiopia claims capture of Jijiga

NAIROBI, March 6 (R). — Ethiopians and Somalis today both claimed victory in the first major battle of Ethiopia's counter-offensive in the Ogaden war. Ethiopia's ambassador to Kenya said his country's troops were pressing forward victoriously after capturing the town of Jijiga. But in Mogadishu, the daily bulletin of the Western Somalia Liberation Front said a Cuban and Russian force, flown in by huge Soviet helicopters to attack the town of Jijiga, had been annihilated. A Polish news agency correspondent in Addis Ababa reported today that Ethiopian troops had reached the Somali border at one point and had also pushed Somali forces off the highway between Addis Ababa and Djibouti and recaptured the town of Jijiga.

Volume 3, Number 695

AMMAN, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1978 — RABIE AWAL 27, 1398



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King Hussein, President Kirchschräger begin talks on political, trade ties

AMMAN, March 6 (Agencies). — Visiting Austrian President Kurt Kirchschräger began today Monday with His Majesty King Hussein aimed at strengthening political, economic and trade relations between the two nations.

Officials here said the Middle East conflict figures high on the agenda, as well as the inclusion of economic, trade and cultural pacts.

The Jordan News Agency said Kirchschräger emphasized in talks that Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and self-determination of Palestinians must remain the basis for a Middle East settlement.

Other sources said the two leaders would also discuss Austrian technical assistance in Jordan's Five-Year Development Plan.

Before the two leaders met at the Royal Basman Palace, Kirchschräger began the second day of his state visit receiving the golden key of Amman from Mayor Ma'n Nuwar.

President Kirchschräger then witnessed the tradition of pouring a cup of water at the root of the olive tree planted at the Martyr's Monument.

Her Highness Princess Basma today accompanied Mrs. Kirchschräger on a visit to the Queen Alia Fund, the National Museum and the Haya Arts Centre.

At noon, Prime Minister Mudar Badran gave a luncheon in honour of the Austrian guests.

In the afternoon, President Kirchschräger, his wife and the accompanying delegation visited the tomb of the late Queen Alia.

In the evening His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath gave a dinner party at their house in honour of the Austrian guests.

Thousands cheered President and Mrs. Kirchschräger at the start of their four-day visit here Sunday.

The King honoured President and Mrs. Kirchschräger at a banquet at the Royal Basman Palace Sunday, and conferred Jordan's highest decorations on them.

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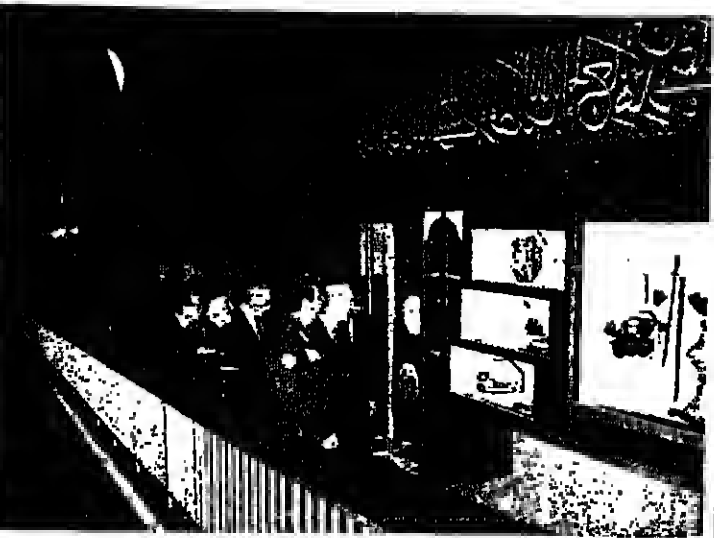
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His Majesty King Hussein looks on as Prime Minister Mudar Badran welcomes President Kirchschräger at the luncheon party he gave in the Austrian president's honour Monday. (JNA photo)



Flanked by Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (right) and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf President Kirchschräger visits the military museum at the Martyr's Monument. (JNA photo)

Gush Emunim seeks showdown with Weizman over two West Bank settlements

JERUSALEM, March 6 (Agencies). — Jewish settlers living in a military camp near Beit El complained today that the Israeli army had cut off their food and told them to make other arrangements.

Complaints followed an order yesterday by Defence Minister Ezer Weizman to freeze on new settlement activity on occupied Arab land west of the Jordan River. The order was issued before Weizman left for talks in Washington.

Settlers at Beit El camp the military commander refused to supply them food and barred them from the mess hall. The officer then two days to make arrangements, the settlers.

A controversy over Jewish settlement on Arab land has had a new peak before President Carter will leave for Washington next week. Mr. Weizman, Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Begin's office declined comment on the story. A military spokesman refused to talk about the situation at Beit El.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zispori banned journalists from entering the Beit El camp.

Mr. Zvi Slonim, a spokesman for the Gush Emunim movement, told reporters yesterday all building has been halted in Beit El, 18 miles northwest of Jerusalem, and at Beit El, 12 miles north of Jerusalem under the order of Mr. Weizman. He said both sites had been approved for settlement by Prime Minister Menachem Begin's rightwing coalition government.

Mr. Dan Weinreich, a Defence Ministry spokesman, yesterday denied Mr. Weizman had ordered construction stopped. Mr. Weinreich said settlers at Beit El, which is part of a military camp, had put up buildings in an area used by the army as a firing range. He said the ministry offered them an alternative area on the site and "the problem should be cleared up in a matter of days."

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Mr. Weinreich said, "no order to freeze building was given," at Beit El, "and measuring and surveying of the area is now under way."

Asked about Mr. Weinreich's statement, Mr. Slonim replied, "We know for a fact that the order to freeze building projects is in effect. The government is playing with us and trying to trick us into a compromise."

Mr. Slonim said his group will launch a public campaign against the government. "We thought keeping a low profile was in the national interest, but we can no longer keep quiet... these decisions are against our common beliefs," he said.

Mr. Slonim said Gush Emunim settlers have been living in a police station at Beit El for several months and the Defence Ministry had promised them the site would be developed.

Four days ago, Mr. Weizman barred Israelis from moving into new homes at Kadesh Barnea in northern Sinai, three miles west of Israel's pre-1967 war frontier.

During the row about Beit El, 24 other Jewish families were reported by Israeli Radio to have announced their intention of settling on a hilltop overlooking the Arab town of Nablus -- in defiance of government orders and even against the instructions of Gush Emunim.

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Peace troops break up armed clash in Beirut

BEIRUT, March 6 (R). — Rightist and leftist gunmen fought in Beirut yesterday and the Arab peace-keeping force threatened to use artillery to stop the clashes in which a woman was reported killed.

Informed sources said four people were also wounded in the battles in which mortars, rockets and heavy machine guns were used.

Little headway by Atherton

CAIRO, March 6 (Agencies). — President Anwar Sadat met today with Roving U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton in another step of the so far inconclusive American shuttle diplomacy in the Mideast.

As he has since he resumed his current round of trips between Cairo and Jerusalem Feb. 20, Mr. Atherton was cautious about claiming any significant progress in his efforts to get the two sides together.

"President Sadat has encouraged me to continue my efforts," Mr. Atherton said after his 75-minute meeting with the Egyptian leader. Mr. Atherton said he gave Mr. Sadat a reply from Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to a letter from Sadat last week. He declined to divulge details.

But U.S. officials conceded Israel and Egypt had not come closer to an agreed concept on the future of the Palestinians. And on the question of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, the officials said generally there had been "a narrowing of the gap" but declined to give specifics.

Earlier, Mr. Atherton spent more than two hours with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel discussing Israel's latest proposals on a Middle East settlement.

Informed Egyptian sources said Israel had made no significant changes to its original proposals. "They've just changed a word here and a word there," the sources said.

"We cannot say that anything significant has happened" on reaching a common Israeli-Egyptian concept on the Palestinians, one U.S. official said.

Mr. Atherton left for Jerusalem directly after his meeting with Mr. Sadat. From there, he expects to fly to Washington to precede Mr. Begin, U.S. sources said.

Arab power a delusion, Rabbi Schindler says

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, (AP). — Arab power over the United States is a delusion, says Rabbi Alexander Schindler, head of the Council of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations in North America.

Rabbi Schindler told a dinner audience Sunday night at the Temple de Hirsch Sinai that declining public support for Israel is mostly a result of the dependence of the United States on oil imported from Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations.

"The problem is, shall America's promises be sold on the bargaining table for oil and gold?" he asked.

Despite its leaders' "threats," Saudi Arabia must come back to the United States to invest its oil revenues, Schindler said.

"What the hell is Saudi Arabia... two thousand families controlling the wealth of the world," he said. "They are just wasting it on the gambling tables at Monte Carlo."

Rabbi Schindler recently returned from visits to Israel.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat. He said he was a close friend of Mr. Begin and often gives him advice on policy.

The American Jewish leader said he was "not too disappointed" that peace talks between Egypt and Israel had stalled since President Sadat's historic visit to Israel in November.

Rabbi Schindler said one result of the visit had been overly high expectations of an immediate resolution of tensions in the Middle East, adding, "I was never among those who were euphoric."

State Department announces U.S. differs with Israel on Resolution 242

WASHINGTON, March 6 (R). — The United States said today it had differences of opinion with Israel over interpreting U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

The latest expression of differences between the two countries came on the eve of talks here with Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman just one week before the start of talks between President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

State Department spokesman Tom Reston told reporters here: "It is true that we do have differences of opinion with the Israelis on the interpretation of U.N. Resolution 242."

The United States believed the resolution passed after the June 1967 war, called for withdrawal on all fronts -- including the West Bank, as part of a general peace agreement.

The spokesman declined to state Israel's current position on the resolution, but other officials here said Mr. Begin has made clear that he opposes Israeli military withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Weizman flew to the United States yesterday to ask for more American arms and to defend Israel's Mideast negotiating position to President Carter.

According to Israeli news reports, Mr. Weizman will ask U.S. Secretary of Defence Harold Brown for \$1 billion worth of military aid, including 25 advanced F-15 fighters and 150 F-16s.

The Carter administration has proposed giving Israel 15 F-15s and 75 F-16s, but has linked the offer to plans to sell to Egypt and Saudi Arabia -- something Mr. Weizman will try to discourage during his 10-day trip.

Mr. Weizman told reporters at Ben-Gurion airport before leaving that as long as Saudi Arabia had an airbase at Tabuk, 125 miles southeast of the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat, Israel considered the Saudis a confrontation state which could fight in a future war against Israel.

Mr. Weizman also said he would meet Mr. Carter to discuss the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Israeli Television reported that Mr. Weizman would urge the Americans to take a less conspicuous position in their mediation efforts between the two countries.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset that there were several interpretations of Resolution 242.

Israeli U.N. envoys have said the resolution did not compel Israel to withdraw from the occupied West Bank of the River Jordan, he added.

Therefore, Mr. Dayan said, the Israeli government thought the parts of the (Begin) peace plan which refer to the West Bank cannot contradict U.N. Resolution 242.

The Israeli cabinet met Sunday for a final review of its policies before Prime Minister Menachem Begin's talks in Washington, but made no changes in its peace plan, Mr. Begin said.

Mr. Begin told reporters in Jerusalem after the five-hour meeting that President Carter would be the first to bear the results of the cabinet's debate.

Carter invokes Taft-Hartley Act after coal miners reject agreement

WASHINGTON, March 6 (Agencies). — President Carter today stepped in to end the longest coal strike in American history after the weekend rejection by the 160,000-strong United Mine Workers (UMW) union, of a tentative agreement.

Saying the country could wait no longer, Mr. Carter added during a TV broadcast that his administration would seek a court injunction under the Taft-Hartley Act to order the striking miners in the Appalachians back to work.

The president said that a million additional Americans would be out of work within a month if the 91-day strike continued.

"The country cannot wait any longer. Coal supplies have been reduced to a critical level throughout the Midwest," he said, adding: "My responsibility is to protect the health and safety of the American public and I intend to do so."

The strike which began on Dec. 6, has already caused serious power shortages and layoffs in several key industrial areas, raised fears that the American economy could be severely affected.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, the president has the power to order the striking members of the United Mine Workers union back to work for an 80-day cooling off period.

The procedure involves asking the attorney general to seek an injunction ordering the return to work while a board of inquiry is set up to look into the dispute.

There is no legal requirement for the two sides to return to the negotiating table during the cooling off period, but Mr. Carter said he hoped that the union and employers would continue their talks.

"I have not taken this decision lightly, but it is absolutely necessary if the nation is not to become the innocent pawn of a total breakdown in the collateral bargaining system," the president said.

Mr. Carter made no reference to the possibility of a temporary take-over of the coal mines by the federal government.

However, he implicitly asked



An employee of a public relations firm hired by the United Mine Workers (UMW) posts the latest total in the UMW vote on a proposed contract in Washington Sunday. (AP wirephoto)



Coal cars contain only snow as they stand idle at a coal mine near Charleston, West Virginia on Sunday, the 90th day of the United Mine Workers strike and the day the miners voted overwhelmingly to turn down a proposed contract. (AP wirephoto)

the operators of the mines to grant the pay increase provided for in the collective agreement rejected by the miners in a weekend vote -- to those miners who decided to go back to work.

The Taft-Hartley Act has been used several times in the past in labour conflicts involving the miners, but they have rarely been used to force an injunction.

President Carter said in his TV statement that he had asked the Justice Department to "make certain that the law is obeyed."

He also urged the miners to heed a court decision.

The strike by the Appalachian miners affects only about half of the coal production of the United States.

But several states on the east coast and in the Midwest are now faced with a serious shortage of coal, and electric power stations have begun to ration their supplies.

World News Roundup...

Sadat-Begin meeting should have been secret

TEL AVIV, March 6 (R). — The historic first meeting between Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was supposed to have been held in secret, Foreign Minister Simcha Ehrlich said at the weekend. He said Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had held secret talks with a prominent Egyptian official before the Vienna meeting before President Sadat went to Jerusalem. Moshe Dayan met the Egyptian on one of the foreign visits unexplained disappearances abroad. There have been reports here that Mr. Dayan met Arab leaders during his trip to Europe, when his itinerary on various days was not disclosed.

Malta demands commitment to Mediterranean security

VALLETTA, March 6 (R). — Malta held out against 34 nations at European Security Conference today, refusing to let the meeting end without a commitment to Mediterranean security. With all other delegations anxious to close the deadlocked conference, Malta's two delegates threatened to use veto powers in a final document agreed by other participants unless it was agreed to allow for a Mediterranean dialogue. Malta has insisted European-Mediterranean dialogue on security issues since the conference began on Oct. 4. The Maltese ran into trouble when the

West, unable to get human rights into the final document, demanded a bland statement which avoids all contentious issues. Delegates said Malta would probably hold out for 24 or 48 hours before yielding. Some Western diplomats said "cosmetic language" might still be devised to satisfy the Maltese.

Soviet team in Damascus for cooperation talks

DAMASCUS, March 6 (R). — Formal talks between the Soviet Union and Syria began here today on strengthening economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. A top Soviet economic and technical delegation arrived in Damascus earlier today from Moscow for a two-week visit and met Mr. Jamil Shayya, Syrian Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs. Official sources said five Soviet-Syrian committees were discussing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of electricity, irrigation, petroleum, mineral resources, trade and transport.

Arafat flies to Moscow

DAMASCUS, March 6 (R). — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew to Moscow today to discuss Middle East developments with Soviet leaders. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department, said the Palestinians would discuss the strengthening of the Arab front against Egypt and President Anwar Sadat's peace initiatives with Israel.

JORDAN TIMES

الوقت الذي يصدره جريدة الجordan times

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Who will save America from Rabbi Schindler?

Rabbi Alexander Schindler is a particularly foul human being, representing, as he does, that special lack of both historical accuracy and ethical depth, characteristics that would place him normally in a House of Strange Breeds and Weird Things, were it not for the fact that he is the head of the United States President's Council of Major Jewish Organisations, which thereby gives him the right to stand up and say lies and other very nasty things in public, which in turn causes us to stand up and ask him to either sit down or shut up, preferably both.

In his latest outburst, Rabbi Schindler this week said, "The problem is, shall America's promises be sold on the bargaining table for oil and gold?" His insinuation was that the Americans are selling out for Arab oil and money, and he charged that "declining American support for Israel is a result of American dependence on Arab oil. Really, Rabbi Schindler? Really?"

And who are the leaders of this great America whose promises have been sold for oil and gold? Is this the same America whose moral inventory has been robbed blind for the past 30 years by the state of Israel and the indiscriminate terror of Zionism's character assassination machinery? An America whose leaders cannot act in the national interest of their 220 million citizens without first getting clearance from a handful of frenzied senators who answer more to the political dictates of trigger-happy Israelis than to their own constituencies in the United States?

Is America selling out for oil? Or is there a submerged streak of humanity in the heart of the United States that hears the cry to free of Arab children in Jerusalem and Ramallah and Nazareth, that sees a wrong in Jewish people building settlements in occupied Arab lands, that recognises the historical propriety of a Palestinian national sentiment and that seeks to help bring peace to the Middle East by recognising the legitimate rights of both the people of Israel and the people of Palestine?

Is Rabbi Schindler angry because the Americans are selling out for oil, or because they are finally becoming tired of selling out to the fears of Zionism and the oppressive blackmail of Israel?

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI said Monday the methods which Egyptian President Anwar Sadat initiated in dealing with the Middle East issue, without consulting anybody, have regrettably, not led to moving Israel one single inch from its obdurate stand, if not made this stand more obstinate and consistent.

The equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the newspaper adds, is simple and clear: Israel from the beginning, has chosen a diplomacy of strength and expansion, while the Arab side has opted for a diplomacy of peace, neglecting to exercise its right to search for power in support of its national requirements. "By this equation, the Arabs are the losing party. As to Israel which has won everything by resorting to arrogance of might, it is still hoping to use this arrogance, even against the country which we hope would press on Israel," Al Rai says.

The newspaper doesn't expect much from the impending Carter-Begin meeting in Washington, "because this is going to be not dissimilar to previous meetings that had resulted in more pressure upon us and more intransigence in the Israeli position."

The newspaper asks: "Didn't we say that Israel has been established, and is going to carry on at the expense of the weakness and division of the Arabs?"

AL DUSTOUR devotes its editorial to Austria, past and present, on the occasion of the current visit to Jordan of the Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschliger. Austria, the newspaper says, is the gate of Europe and the bridge that links Europe with the Orient. Its geographical position has embroiled it in so many troubles and wars which made it adopt a neutral policy -- a policy which earned this nation the respect of all countries of the globe.

Al Dustour goes on to say that there is a common factor between Jordan and Austria -- two small countries, with their industrious and ambitious peoples trying to rely on themselves, exploit their resources intelligently for their own, and their regions, prosperity and stability, and to establish, with all the world countries, relations of respect and cooperation.

Jordan and Austria also love peace; "and Austria shares with us the opinion that peace should be just and honourable."

Thus the visit of the Austrian President is welcomed by the Jordanians "because it is an encouraging sign to the manner decided by the leaders of the two countries to promote their mutual relations for the common benefit of their peoples together."

PERSPECTIVE

Women's Magazine of Jordan

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New role for Arab eyes to bear on picturing Jordan

The renowned Chinese artist, Liang Dan-fong, whose exhibition is on display at the University of Jordan Alumni Club now, spoke to FAWZIA MAI, about her experiences of painting in Jordan:

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA) — The Arab Economic Council will be called, as from today, the Arab Economic and Social Council, after the amendment of article 8 of the Joint Defence Treaty and Economic Cooperation between member states of the Arab League.

The council will follow up as from today the implementation of Arab economic plans which are carried out by specialised Arab organisations within the framework of the Arab League. The Council will also be a central body supervising these organisations and co-ordinating their activities. It also takes part in preparing their economic schemes.

Farhan leaves to tour U.K. varsities

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — President of the University of Jordan Dr. Isma'il Farhan left here today on a two-week visit to the United Kingdom to make a tour of British universities and hold talks with U.K. authorities concerning academic co-ordination with the University of Jordan, as well as the needs of the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Farhan's visit comes at the invitation of the British Council.

Saudi scholarships for Jordanians

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — The Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Minerals University expressed readiness to allocate a number of scholarships to students of the University of Jordan who hold a B.A. in various specialties.

This came in a letter received from the dean of the Higher Studies in the Saudi university.

Prof. Liang's present visit stems from an invitation extended in December 1977, from Mr. Michel Hamamah, the Director General of Tourism. She was asked to come to Jordan to draw and paint scenes of Jordan for the Ministry of Tourism. The original invitation for a stay of one week was extended after her arrival to two weeks, "or more, or as long as you wish".

Prof. Liang first visited Jordan in August 1977, when she was on a world tour, passing through Turkey, she decided to drop in on Jordan and visit a friend at the Ministry of Tourism. She spent eight days visiting different sites, Jerash, Petra and produced piles of sketches and water-colours of her impressions.

Her friends at the Ministry of Tourism were struck by the beauty, depth and simplicity of the artistic work; and also, they reckon, by the speed with which they were produced "even faster than photographs take to be developed." In addition, paintings can gather striking features into a balanced and beautiful composition, as well as bringing out the spirit and meaning of the place. Until now, all touristic posters and pictures of Jordan are photographs. It was then that the idea of having Liang Dan-fong paint Jordan hatched.

But Ms. Liang could not agree to start at once. She still had to go home and exhibit the paintings of her world tour. Jordan's scenes were also included in the large exhibition which drew crowds of admirers and the praise of art critics.

Last Feb. 20, she arrived in Amman for her second visit. Work for her started at once. A driver took her around Jordan, stopping whenever she would find a particularly breathtaking view. In the past ten days, she has already toured Jerash, the Dead Sea, Petra, Shobek, Aqaba, Kerak, Wadi Rum, Al-Dissi, Dibbin, the Jordan Valley, the Desert Castles and the surrounding of Amman.

In Petra, which holds a special joy for her, she spent three whole days, climbing up and down the rocks, sketching and painting. She still has many places to see, including Um-Qeis and Madaba. Though tired, sunburnt and speaking with a sore throat which makes her voice little more than a whisper, she told the Jordan Times that visiting Jordan is sheer excitement; not only has she encountered all sorts of adventures, such as a violent sandstorm that left her yellow from head

to toe, but she has been taken to archaeological excavations not yet open to the public.

Harvest on display

Her harvest is now being exhibited in the University of Jordan Alumni Club through March 8. There are to be around 50 watercolours, ten of them painted during her last trip, the other 40 from the present one; 20 crayon drawings and a few traditional Chinese paintings.

The most deplorable thing, she says, is the impossibility to paint more Jordanian scenes by traditional Chinese brush and ink method -- she has done only two so far. The reason, she explains, is because traditional Chinese paintings are done on special paper that needs very fresh ink.

This is usually provided by grinding an ink stone on an ink plate. But the weather here and the winds do not allow it: the ink and freshly ground colours dry up in two minutes! This is a pity as Jordan's scenes are particularly suitable for Chinese painting, according to Prof. Liang.

A flat stroke of the brush reveals a desert line white yet black dotted with sand. And

WHAT'S GOING ON

Children's Theatre

The Haya Arts Centre is presenting a play, based on the Arab folklore figure of Joha, every day at 4:00, running through next Friday. The play, entitled "Joha and His Donkey" is in Arabic, and should be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Art Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings by Chinese artist, Liang Dan-fong, opened on Monday at the Jordan University Alumni Club. The works presented are on a Jordanian theme, and the exhibition runs through Wednesday the 8th.

Detective Film

Continuing the detective film series, the Goethe Institute presents tonight at 8:00 a film produced in 1951 entitled "Der Verlorene". In German only.



During a visit to the Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman, Mrs. Kirchschliger (centre, wearing dark coat), wife of the visiting Austrian President, listens attentively to an official of the Jordanian Antiquities Department. (JNA photo)

Longman Penguin Arab World Centre

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from Sunday, March 5, at 4:00 p.m. and daily through March 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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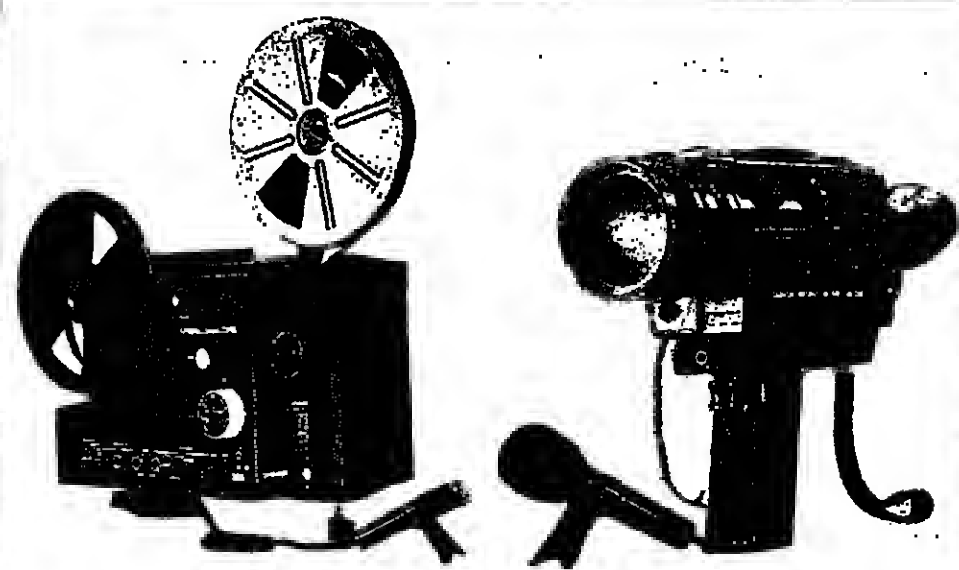
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AT LAST... JAPAN SENT THE BEST



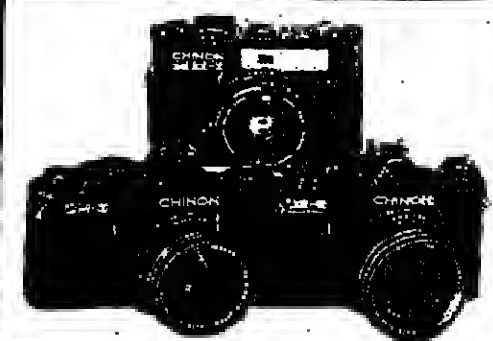
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Hagop Toranian

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at King Hussein street, opposite Cinema Zahran.



Taxation issues subject of talks between French and Jordanian teams

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — Discussions between Jordan and France on the conclusion of an agreement to avoid tax duality between the two countries began at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce here today.

During the meeting the Jordanian side put forward a legal explanation for two laws, the income tax and encouragement of investment in Jordan and exemptions provided by these laws to foreign investors in general, and the French in particular, along with incentives for foreigners to invest in various fields in Jordan, notably industry.

The French side, on its part, gave a clarification of the basic formulae of the French tax rules.

During their meetings which will continue for several days, the two sides will tackle subjects related to avoidance of

tax duality between countries, including taxes imposed on incomes of companies of aviation, shipping, stocks and shares profits, and statements of members of boards of joint companies from nationals of the two countries.

The Jordanian side, headed by Under-Secretary of the Finance Ministry, Farid Obaid, includes Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Dr. Hashem Dabbas, Director General of the Tax Department Dr. Saleh Al Khasawneh and representatives from the National Planning Council, and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The French delegation, led by the Director of the Tax Department at the Finance Ministry, includes the trade attaché at the French embassy in Amman. The delegation arrived here yesterday.

National News Roundup

Prince Hassan will open Karak seminar March 17

KARAK, March 6 (JNA). — The governor of Karak Sunday reviewed with heads of Municipal Councils in the Governorate working papers they intend to present to a special seminar to open on March 17 under the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The governor told JNA that one of the papers will deal with means of developing local societies particularly in the villages. It also contains views on the feasibility of establishing unified centres for offering public services to a number of villages in the governorate.

17 flights twixt Amman, Cairo every week

CAIRO, March 6 (JNA). — Jordan and Egypt today concluded a new air transport agreement for increasing flights between the two countries. Teams from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Egypt Air, the national Egyptian airline, reached agreement after two days of talks in Cairo. According to the agreement, to be put into force on April 1st, Alia will make ten weekly flights between Amman and Cairo and additional flights, especially in summer, if necessary. Egypt Air will operate seven flights between the two countries.

Red Crescent Society gets aid through

International Committee of the Red Cross

AMMAN, March 6 (JT). — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society received in 1977, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, 1,000 tons of flour and 200 of powder milk, as aid from the EEC countries, and 500 tons of flour, as aid from the Swiss government. This aid arrived at the port of Aqaba and was distributed to the poor and needy people by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in Amman and by its different branches all over the country. Recently an amount of 200 tons of powdered milk was sent to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in Amman from the EEC countries through the auspices of the ICRC.

New post offices opened in Irbid area

IRBID, March 6 (JNA). — The Department of Telecommunications in Irbid says new post offices and post office branches have been opened in 16 villages of the governorate. The department last year opened a similar number of offices and says the governorate now has 54 full post offices and 121 branches to serve postal and telecommunication needs of the region.

Tin factory opens

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — A new factory for making tin boxes was opened here today. It is owned by the Agricultural Produce Processing Company, cost JD 400,000 and is equipped with machines to produce various sizes of tins at the rate of 200 to 250 per minute.

School children race

NORTH SHOUNEH, March 6 (JNA). — The annual "Race of the Suburbs" between teams from schools of all governorates and districts of Jordan took place here today under the auspices of the Minister of Education. Ninety-one students took part in the seven kms. race, in which the Amman governorate won first place, the Zarqa District schools second, the Mafrqa district schools third and the Irbid governorate schools fourth position. The Governor of Irbid, Mr. Mamoun Khalil, deputising for the Education Minister, distributed prizes and cups to the winning teams.

No official inspection of TV licences

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — The Finance Ministry has issued a warning to the public not to receive in their houses any person who wants to inspect television sets licences, and to inform the nearest police post of anyone assuming such a title. A Finance Ministry spokesman said his Ministry is not carrying out any official inspection of the television licences at present. Renewal of licences and payment of dues is made only through the ministry accountants in their offices throughout the Kingdom. The source called on the inhabitants to pay these dues by the end of March, in order to avoid any fines imposed on laggards which may reach 50 per cent.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volume traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	894	6,000	6,800	6,800	6,800	—	6,000
Industrial Development Bank	JD 1,000	637	1,100	1,250	1,250	1,250	—	—
Far Al Dawa Development and Investment	JD 1,000	380	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5,000	71	7,250	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,000	—
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	1,921	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	—	—
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	4,454	15,000	15,850	15,550	15,550	—	15,550
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1,000	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0,950	1,000
Jordan Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0,950	—
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	1,035	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	—	8,800
Jordan Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	210	2,050	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,000	—
75 per cent of share capital paid.								
Total volume traded Tuesday, March 6, JD 12,905								

Working women being surveyed

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — The department of research and public relations at the ministry of labour is currently carrying out a comprehensive survey on working women in Jordan. The purpose of the survey is to collect information about the nature of work and the conditions under which women of various classes are working as well as the special needs of women at various institutions.

Cooperation from Arab embassies sought by Labour Ministry

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni Sunday sent memoranda to Arab embassies in Amman calling for their cooperation with his ministry while issuing visas to Jordanian labourers going to work in Arab states. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labour employment office today said that 203 workmen with various skills were employed in Jordan during last month.

Civil status delegation returns from Sweden

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA). — The Civil Status Department delegation, led by Director General Rifa'ie Al Hazayem returned here from an eight-day visit to Sweden where they studied similar work in civil status offices, registering Swedish citizens from their birth until death.

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UAE, Qatari ministers call for replacement of \$ in oil pricing

KUWAIT, March 6 (AP). — Two Arab oil ministers called today for the replacement of the dollar as the currency used to set oil prices. The separate statements came from Qatar's Oil and Finance Minister, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa, and the Oil Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Manef Said Al Oteiba.

In an interview with Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, Sheikh Khalifa said members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have already lost \$14 billion as a result of the declining value of the dollar. He

on issuing an OPEC dollar, to avoid further losses," Mr. Khalifa said.

"Such an OPEC dollar will be immune to the fluctuations and disadvantages affecting the U.S. dollar," he added.

Dr. Al Oteiba said in an interview with the daily newspaper Al Wahda that such a basket should include the currencies of major oil exporting states.

The basket could include the Kuwaiti dinar, the Saudi riyal and the United Arab Emirates dirham, Mr. Al Oteiba said.

He said the aim of such a move would be to protect the purchasing power of oil revenues and not to replace the dollar as a means of payment for oil.

Dr. Al Oteiba said his proposal would mean that the price of oil in terms of dollars would be regularly adjusted to reflect the relation of the U.S. currency to the basket.

Dr. Al Oteiba said the U.S. dollar remained the most suitable currency in which to express oil prices.

"But by relating prices to a basket of currencies, which includes the currencies of major producers in OPEC, it would be possible to protect the purchasing power of oil revenue irrespective of the currency in which the price is actually expressed," he added.

Commenting on calls for an extraordinary OPEC meeting to discuss the dollar crisis, Dr. Al Oteiba said the UAE was willing to attend any meeting which the member states wished to hold.

On whether OPEC was likely to increase oil prices because of the continuing pressure on them he said that the question of oil prices was open for discussion at any moment as the OPEC oil ministers had not set a specific period for the present oil price freeze.

U.S. chooses DC-10 as mid-air tanker



The DC-10 jumbo jet depicted in this drawing refueling an F-15 fighter plane has been chosen recently as the mid-air tanker for the U.S. air force. McDonnell Douglas manufactures the plane at Long Beach, California. (IPS photo)

Dollar rallies after dip below 2 marks level

LONDON, March 6 (R). — The U.S. dollar plunged below the two marks level today on European foreign exchanges but later rallied.

With dealers reporting the market as extremely nervous, the U.S. currency seemed at first to be continuing its fall of months which have dominated the world's money transactions.

After going to new low levels, the dollar suddenly recovered, taking some operators by surprise.

Dealers said a recent series of drastic measures by Swiss authorities to choke off inflows of funds appeared to have checked the dollar's slide.

The Swiss moves included cutting interest rates, extend-

ing the scope of a 40 per cent annual "negative" interest levy paid by foreigners holding large deposits in Swiss banks, banning non-residents from using Swiss shares or bonds, and limiting imports of foreign bank notes.

In Frankfurt, the dollar fell below two marks when it opened at 1.9955 marks.

But in later trading the U.S. currency rallied sharply to 2.0355 marks.

The Frankfurt dealers said they were unable to account for the sudden movement of the dollar and the West German Central Bank (Bundesbank) has not been detected in the market today.

Sometimes the Bundesbank supports the dollar by making big purchases.

Energy bill passage would help dollar, say U.S. officials

WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP).

Two Carter administration officials said Sunday that passage of an energy bill by the U.S. Congress would help restore confidence in the dollar on international monetary markets.

Both U.S. Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger and Charles L. Schultz, Chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers, said other nations are watching the United States closely to see whether its leaders can summon the will to check the growing U.S. reliance on imported oil.

While conceding that administration officials are concerned about the plight of the dollar and recent declines on the

stock market, Mr. Schultz said that the economic news is bad.

"One thing that surely would help would be passage of an energy bill," he said. "I think what it does say, however, is that our specific objective is to improve things in the near world and that will improve things in the financial world."

Mr. Schlesinger reiterated his belief that the United States must move toward energy self-sufficiency, saying he is optimistic that a breakthrough is near on the congressional stalemate over President Carter's energy programme.

"I think deterioration of the dollar is largely attributable to U.S. failure to come to grips with the energy issue," he said.

Mr. Schlesinger was interviewed on CBS-TV's Face the Nation and Mr. Schultz was interviewed on NBC's Meet the Press. Mr. Schultz said that the devaluation of the dollar is a catastrophe.

Iran orders 6 Airbus

TEHRAN, March 6 (R).

Iran's National Airline yesterday signed an agreement to buy six European Airbus.

The Chairman of Iran Air, General Ali Mohammad Khatami, told a press conference the agreement included an option for three more of the planes.

The Airbus on order is the A300B2, a type which can carry 345 passengers.

General Khatami said the first four Airbus would go into operation in early 1980 on the airline's domestic service and possibly also regionally.

The French and West German aircraft industries are the main partners in the European Airbus consortium. Some 16 international airlines have so far ordered more than 100 of the airliners.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian Dinar	Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	307.00/308.00
U.K. sterling	537.00/541.00
W. German mark	153.90/154.00
Swiss franc	169.40/170.00
French franc	64.80/65.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.10/36.50
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.50/131.00
Dutch guilder	143.70/144.00
Belgian franc (for every 100)	93.60/94.00
Swedish crown	67.30/67.50

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of last bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.9370/77	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0265/85	West German marks
	2.1675/1700	Dutch guilders
	1.8750/8900	Swiss francs
	31.50/60	Belgian francs
	4.7675/7750	French francs
	851.75/852.50	Italian lire
	236.20/40	Japanese yen
	6.045/75	Swedish crowns
	5.3225/55	Norwegian crowns
	5.5740/70	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Trading was quiet reflecting continuing market concern over U.K. economic prospects and prices closed mixed, dealers said 15:00 hrs the F.T. index was up 1.6 at 437.8.

Long dated government bonds rose by up to 5/8 while short dated fell 1/16 where changed dealers said.

Equities closed mixed to slightly firmer after an initial drop.

Gold shares made modest net gains while U.S. and Canadian shares were mixed.

Fisons fell 2p to 357-1/2. It reported improved pre-tax profit for 1977. Unilever fell 4p to 478p ahead of final results due on 15/3. Glaxo lost 5p to 517-1/2p. The company was the target of unfavourable weekend press comment.

Beeshaan rose by 2p to 584-1/2p. Its British division plans to invest about £41 m. at factories in south east England.

Oil shares eased slightly where changed, banks firmed to 3p and selected stores rose by up to 4p in active trading.

Price of gold closed on London Monday at \$184.40/oz.

Iran places boycott on East German trade

TEHRAN, Iran, March 6 (AP). — Iran announced a trade boycott on East Germany today in the wake of severed diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The boycott decision was made Sunday night after the Iranian government broke relations because its embassy in East Berlin was unprotected under diplomatic immunity, a spokesman for the Chamber of Commerce said.

Ambassador Amir Hossein Farzanehgan and his staff were recalled from East Berlin following last Monday's 70-minute attack on the embassy while East German police stood by watching it being looted, a government announcement charged.

Furthermore, the announcement said the East German government refused to prosecute the 20 men who raided the embassy, destroying and robbing furniture and documents.

East German revenues from Iran's non-governmental imports and tourist trade is estimated at more than \$100 million.

Bahrain awards Japanese firm contract for gas gathering, processing system

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 6

(AP). — The Bahrain National Oil Company (Banoco) has awarded a \$72 million contract to the Japan Gasoline Company for construction of its gas gathering and processing system, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The weekly oil report said the project is designed to process about three million cubic metres of gas daily. The gas is usually burned.

The processing system will

result in an annual production of 28,000 tons of natural gas liquids, 80,000 tons of propane, 75,000 tons of butane and 125,000 tons of natural gasoline, the survey reported.

MEES said the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (Apicorp) -- which is sponsored by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries -- will finance the project along with the U.S. firm Caltex, which operates the Bahrain oil fields and Banoco.

Banoco will set up a subsidiary to manage the project in which Apicorp and Caltex will each have a minor share of 12.5 per cent, MEES added.

The total cost of the project is estimated at between 80 and 90 million dollars. Apart from the \$72 million Japan Gasoline Company contract, the remainder of the money will finance dredging, work and other facilities.

The plant is expected to be ready in 22 months, MEES said.

Did we all come out of a white-hole?

By Geoffrey Hugh Lindop

London. — The science of Radio astronomy was born in 1931 when Karl Jansky made his observations from New Jersey in the U.S. In 1965, only a mile from where Mr. Jansky worked, engineers at the Bell Telephone Laboratories were investigating transmission and reception characteristics of extremely high frequency radio waves, in order to pave the way for a new generation of communications satellites.

They found, however, that no matter how much they improved their apparatus there was always a residual background noise. This, they found, comes from the sky, not from a point source, but uniformly throughout the cosmos.

Theorists claim that this radiation, now very weak, was formed in the intensely hot plasma that existed during the first years after the creation of the universe.

The universe began, according to popular theory, as a big bang, sometime between 5,000 million and 18,000 million years ago. The most recent estimate is 15,000 million years ago.

All the matter in the entire universe was concentrated in a huge ball called the "primordial fireball". Within seconds of the explosion, electrons, neutrons and protons were formed.

On the face of the big bang theory had been substantiated by the discovery of the background radiation.

Casting doubt on the "big bang"

The first hint that this might not be the case came when Soviet astronomers turned the world's largest radio telescope -- 1,900 foot (588 metre) diameter -- in the Northern Caucasus -- on to the cosmic background noise. They found the noise was weaker than theory predicted.

Their observations have recently been confirmed by American researchers using a U-2 jet plane from NASA's Ames Research Centre to fly their ultra-sensitive radio equipment 12 miles (20 kms.) above the ground. There it was above 90 per cent of the atmosphere which would have otherwise blanketed the cosmic radiation.

The Americans concluded

Recent findings by an American research team have challenged the popular Big Bang Theory about the origin of the universe. This article explains how these discoveries were made and what theory might replace the big bang theory.

that the universe began much more slowly than had hitherto been thought -- not as a big bang but as a serene, finely orchestrated event.

Just as a train whistle is high pitched as the train approaches and lower pitched as it travels away, so too the background radiation has a slight change in frequency, which has enabled the American team to determine that the Milky Way Galaxy, of which the solar system is a member, is travelling at more than one million miles per hour towards the point in space marked by the constellation of Hydra.

Everything in motion

Of course the naked eye stars in that constellation are also part of the Milky Way Galaxy and are moving with us in that direction. It seems that everything in the universe is rotating. The moon rotates in its orbit around the earth, which in turn orbits the sun, which in turn orbits the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy.

But Dr. George Smoot, one of the American researchers, says: "The U-2 measurements seem to show there is no rotation of the universe. If there is rotation, it has to be less than one hundred millionth of a rotation in the last 10,000 million years."

These deductions could only be made because the back-

ground radiation was found to be basically very uniform, providing a reference backcloth from which the minor modulation due to our own motion could be measured.

Everywhere they looked -- and their observations covered all of the northern half of the sky -- they found remarkable uniformity. The energy levels were constant to within one part in 3,000; and the rate of expansion was constant to within one part in 10,000.

It is this very expansion, where everything in the universe seems to be travelling away from everything else, that prompted astronomers to formulate the big bang theory in the first place.

I do not know how far we can extend the laws that govern our own small part of the universe. For instance, we know -- and can prove -- that light travels in straight lines. This may well be true for the small distances even in the Milky Way Galaxy, but it is questionable that light does so over the vast intergalactic distances that are involved in formulating creation theories.

After the U-2 observations, astrophysicists have three options.

1. They can dismiss the observations out of hand. Since these have been more or less confirmed by Soviet research, this seems unlikely.

2. The big bang theory could be modified to take account

of a much slower process.

3. The big bang theory could be thrown out and a new theory formulated. It is too early to say what such a theory might be, but it could take this form:

To send rockets into space, they must first escape the earth's gravitational pull. To do this they must travel at over 11 kms. per second (7 miles per second). Jupiter, being much more massive has a higher escape velocity of 60 kms. per second (37 miles per second). Bigger still, the sun has an escape velocity of 617 kms. per second (430 miles per second).

Black-holes

It is possible to find stars so massive their escape velocity exceeds the speed of light. At that point nothing can move fast enough to escape from their gravitational field -- not even light itself, and so, they are termed a black-hole. Everything within range of its gravitational pull becomes sucked into a seemingly bottomless pit.

These bizarre objects present a fascinating challenge to astro-physicists. Where does all the matter go that is attracted to a black-hole? In theory it should continue falling towards the centre of the black-hole.

The black-hole, by becoming more and more massive, contracts upon itself faster and faster. Its size diminishes until it is smaller than a pinhead.

White-Holes

It is suspected that before it becomes that small something else happens. The matter pours out, through what astronomers call a white-hole. The connection between black- and white-holes have not as yet been established. What for instance, does a white-hole look like? To all intents and purposes it should look simply as a star.

The hypothesis continues; the matter collected by a black-hole emerges from a white-hole in "some other universe". Here the English language has to be re-written. "universe", as we understand the word, means "everything; all of creation" If that is so the

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Re-elected premier, Hua Kuo-feng firmly tops China's hierarchy

TOKYO, March 6 (AP). — China's parliament re-elected Communist Posts Chairman Hua Kuo-feng as premier yesterday, solidifying his hold at the top of the Peking hierarchy as both political and administrative leader of the world's most populous nation. Mr. Hua, 57, apparently outmanoeuvred Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping for the job as head of government, proving himself a wily and successful political in-fighter. In the process he has established himself as successor to both Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai, the two great leaders of Chinese communism.

Peking's Great Hall of the People "rang with cheers and there was a prolonged ovation" after Mr. Hua was chosen premier at the closing session of the Fifth National People's Congress, the official news agency Hsinhua reported in a dispatch received here.

But the 73-year-old Mr. Teng did not come away empty-handed. He and his old-guard military revolutionary allies put two of their men into key positions.

Defence Minister Yeh Chien-ying, 81, was named to head the congress Standing Committee, and Marshal Hsu Hsiang-chiao, 76, was chosen to take over at defence.

Mr. Hua, who had been premier by party appointment for almost two years, left most of his cabinet intact. But a shake-up in the seven divisions of the important ministry of machine building — only two of seven ministers kept their jobs — spelling determination to put new steam into the drive toward the economic modernisation of China, a national effort launched by Mr. Hua, Mr. Teng and their "pragmatist" allies.

Mr. Teng chaired the final

session of the congress and hailed it as "a meeting of unity, a meeting of victory." Though there had been signs he put

China annuls many people's committees

PEKING, March 6 (R). — China is to abolish many of its revolutionary committees, which were born out of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s. The committees, which were embodied in the 1975 state constitution, were designed to place power in the hands of the people down to the lowest levels. Premier Hua Kuo-feng announced in a report to China's fifth parliament last week that the revolutionary committees would be dispensed with, except as local government administrations. According to the full text of his report on the work of the government released today, Premier Hua said revolutionary committees would be elected this year in cities directly under provincial authority, in autonomous prefectures and counties, and in communes. However, the committees would be abolished at provincial level and in all other organisations where it did not form an actual level of government.

Bhutto's trial opens Saturday

LAHORE, March 6 (R). — The trial of Pakistan's ex-Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto before a special court on charges of political misconduct will begin on Saturday, an official announcement said today.

The trial prepared by Pakistan's military regime, will deal with the alleged misuse of government funds and also of using secret service funds for political purposes.

Mr. Bhutto, ruler of Pakistan for five-and-a-half years before his overthrow in a coup last July, will be formally charged when the trial starts. The offences carry possible seven-year jail sentences, disqualification from elected office and confiscation of assets.

The 50-year lawyer, has been held in jail since September, but still commands a wide following through his Pakistan People's Party.

He stood a good chance of being returned to power in elections scheduled for last October before the military ruler, Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq called them off.

China lauds Sadat's "anti-Soviet line"

TOKYO, March 6 (AP). — The Soviet Union is using propaganda in an attempt to undermine the Middle East peace efforts of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, China's official Hsinhua news agency said yesterday.

"The Kremlin has directly commanded the action to split Arab ranks and disrupt Arab unity," Hsinhua said.

The Peking agency said Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev personally slandered Egypt by asserting that its leadership had tried to make separate deals with Israel. Referring to Mr. Sadat's talks with Israeli leaders, Hsinhua asked: "When a leader of a sovereign Arab state took the initiative, approved by his people as a due move, to preserve national independence and the state's sovereignty and throw off foreign interference, and in the negotiations with Israel, has stuck to the just stand calling for the recovery of the lost Arab territories and the restoration to the Palestinian people of their national rights, how could he have offended the Soviet Union, which has nothing to do with the Middle East?"

The agency said the Soviets were acting because Egypt had freed itself from Soviet domination and it was "quite natural that the Soviet leaders should vent their wrath on Egypt." The agency said that Egypt, Sudan and Somalia "have one after another seen through the Soviet ambitions and freed their will." It noted the expulsion of military advisers and other actions taken by Egypt against the Soviet Union, and added that "last year, President Sadat held direct negotiations with Israel to get rid of the Soviet control over the Middle East peace talks. In a certain sense, this also weakened the U.S. manipulation of the talks. This has caused anxiety to the two super-powers, especially the Soviet Union."

Like God, U.S. insists on stronger Israeli army, says State Department official

NEW YORK, March 6 (AP). — A high-ranking U.S. State Department official said yesterday that the United States will continue to put top priority on maintaining the security of Israel while at the same time retaining amicable relations with Arab nations.

Mr. Walter B. Smith II, Director of Arab-Israeli Affairs, defended President Carter's proposal to sell aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and said he believed a Middle East peace settlement is possible despite recent problems at negotiations.

He made the remarks during a Midtown speech before the Zionist Organisation of America.

Mr. Smith said the proposed aircraft sale to Arab nations will not affect the "balance of military power" in the Middle East, but is intended to upgrade the security of those countries. "The United States has seen to it that Israel's

qualitative strength over the Arabs has increased since the last war," Mr. Smith said. "Like God and taxes, the U.S. insistence in strengthening the IDF ('Israel Defence Force') will continue."

Answering questions from the audience, Mr. Smith acknowledged that if Congress approves the aircraft sale, the U.S. will be taking a risk because of instability of Arab governments. He said in the case of a coup in any of the nations, he would "be surprised if there were not a serious reconsideration" of the sale by the United States.

Mr. Smith maintained that the U.S. will remain impartial towards negotiations between Israel and Egypt. "There are going to be a lot of ups and downs," he said of the settlement talks between Israel and Egypt. "I think they are going to succeed. The U.S. is not interested in pressing anyone."

Italian government expected shortly as 6 parties agree to back Andreotti

ROME, March 6 (Agencies). — Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti today put the finishing touches to a six-party pact expected to end Italy's six-week-old government crisis.

The breakthrough came on Saturday in a summit meeting of the party leaders.

If the pact were implemented it would be the first time since 1947 that the Communists openly supported a new Christian Democratic minority government.

"We have taken a notable step forward," Signor Andreotti told reporters after Saturday's summit. Other party leaders gave equally positive assessments.

At the centre of the new deal was a jointly worked out government programme on key issues and a pledge by the parties to support Signor Andreotti's new minority government in both houses of parliament.

His previous minority cabinet resigned on Jan. 16 after the Communists, Socialists and Republicans demanded cabinet posts in an emergency government.

Although the pact fell well short of the minimum demands by the Communists to be included in a formal parliamentary majority, they seemed to be content with a vague compromise.

Political analysts gave Signor Andreotti's fourth government — if it came about — only the status of an interim administration until an early general election, possibly next year.

All parties tacitly agreed to avoid a general election soon. Signor Andreotti was today holding talks with trade union and industry leaders on the economic aspects of the six-party pact.

Leftist demo

In a separate development, police used tear gas today to disperse hundreds of leftist extremists demonstrating near the St. John Lateran Basilica here after attending the funeral of a 24-year-old man shot to death in an ambush in a Rome square last week.

Police said that after the funeral, the extremists demonstrated and attacked them with firebombs. Police said they arrested eight demonstrators, three of them under the age of 16. No injury was reported.

Meanwhile, police said they were investigating on the killing of the ambushed man, Roberto Scialoja. They discarded any political connection in the killing, saying it was a vendetta affair between rival criminal rackets.

129 Moslem rebels surrender to army in Filipino south

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines, March 6 (Agencies). — The Southern Military Command yesterday announced the surrender of 129 Moslem rebels who had been fighting government troops on the far southern island of Jolo.

Those who surrendered to Southern Military Commander Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon brought to about 500 the number of Moslems from the Jolo area who have surrendered to the authorities since the start of the year, the military said.

The surrender ceremonies were held as two battalions of government troops pounded rebel positions in the rugged Indonesian area of Jolo, 960 kms. south of Manila in operations to flush out Osman Salih, leader of a rebel band accused of killing a top field general and 34 of his officers and men during a supposed truce meeting in October.

Mr. Salih, believed wounded in an earlier operation in Jolo's Patikul district near

Indanan, has a price of 500,000 pesos (\$67,500) on his head. The command spokesman did not disclose casualty figures in the anti-rebel operations which began on Wednesday.

Kidnappers silent

Meanwhile, nothing has been heard of the fate of a kidnapped French government official here despite expiration of a ransom deadline, but military authorities seeking his release reportedly did not think he had been harmed.

The Moslem rebel abductors of M. Pierre Hugnet, an official of the French Finance Ministry, had demanded payment of \$150,000 ransom by Saturday night.

But M. Gildas Lelidex, First Secretary of the French Embassy in Manila who was sent to this southern Philippines city shortly after Mr. Hugnet was abducted last week, said neither he nor military officials were overly concerned.

Salisbury security toughened as 2 men accused of bombings

SALISBURY, March 6 (Agencies). — Two vegetable sellers appeared briefly in court here today on charges related to a series of bombings in Salisbury and its suburbs on Saturday.

The two men were charged with acts of terrorism, and may face execution if convicted.

They were Augustine Nyenyere, 26, and his cousin Aggrey Nyenyere, 23. Both black men were accused of planting bombs which exploded in various parts of the city between 11 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on Saturday.

The defendants were ordered held until March 20.

State prosecutor Mike Nicolaou alleged the two received the bombs from "terrorists" — the official term for black nationalist guerrillas fighting to topple the white minority government.

One police source said the defendants told police they were supporters of the Zimbabwe African National Union, an organisation led by guerrillas seeking to overthrow the white minority government.

Tough security moves

Meanwhile, a 75-kms. corridor of white-owned farmland on the outskirts of Salisbury was officially proclaimed a curfew zone today. Violators can be shot on sight by security forces between dusk and dawn.

Police imposed the curfew, in force in many other areas of the country, to prevent incursions by black nationalist guerrillas from tribal reserves beyond the corridor into the outskirts of the city.

The regulations ban persons from moving more than 50 metres from their homes or being in public places between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

They are expected to affect hundreds of blacks working and

living in compounds on white-owned farms.

Police have never ordered a curfew so near the Rhodesian capital before.

Muzorewa meets Owen

In a separate development, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, one of the three black Rhodesian leaders who signed the settlement agreement with the white government in Salisbury on Friday, met with British Foreign Secretary David Owen in London today to press him to endorse the Salisbury agreement according to London's Foreign Office.

While Britain has not criticised the Salisbury agreement it has maintained that any accord signed without the participation of the nationalist guerrillas would fail to put an end to the war against Rhodesia's government.

Nkomo slams accord

One of the guerrilla leaders, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, described the black leaders who have agreed to cooperate with Rhodesia's government in a transition to black majority rule as having "taken sides against their people."

In an interview with the official Hungarian news agency published in Budapest today, Mr. Nkomo said the moderates who signed the agreement with Premier Ian Smith "joined forces with Smith against the fight of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) masses."

"We have to step up the war to the extent where it becomes clear that Smith and his men cannot use puppets and cannot hide from the wrath of the Zimbabwe masses," he said. Mr. Nkomo, co-leader of the guerrilla Patriotic Front group, was interviewed in Maputo, Mozambique.

World News Briefs

Scotland finds poisoned Israeli orange

EDINBURGH, March 6 (AP). — A mercury-contaminated orange was found in Scotland on Saturday. Edinburgh Police Headquarters issued a general warning that anyone buying oranges should carefully examine them. A police spokesman said the orange, of the Israeli Jaffa variety, could not yet be determined. He said a woman in Haddington, a small town 18 miles east of Edinburgh, peeled the orange, spotted globules of mercury and told the police.

No Iraqi post due to Syrian border closure

BAGHDAD, March 6 (AP). — Iraqi postal officials complained yesterday that 15,000 sacks of post had piled up on the Turkish-Syrian border because Syria had closed its border to surface post bound for Iraq.

Tito leaves for U.S. visit

BELGRADE, March 6 (AP). — President Josip Broz Tito left today for an official visit to the United States for talks with President Jimmy Carter on mutual relations and world problems.

Stalin's anniversary marked privately

MOSCOW, March 6 (R). — Relatives of Josef Stalin were allowed to place wreaths and flowers on his Red Square grave yesterday but the 25th anniversary of the dictator's death passed without official notice. Among relatives who visited the grave by the wall of the Kremlin were his grandson, Yevgeny Dzhugashvili, and two small great-grandsons who together carried a wreath.

Britain, Spain to discuss Gibraltar

LONDON, March 6 (R). — Spanish and British Foreign Ministers Marcelino Oreja Aguirre and David Owen will meet shortly — probably in mid-March in Paris — for further talks on the long-standing Gibraltar dispute, British officials said yesterday.

San Marino's political crisis nears end

SAN MARINO, March 6 (AP). — After 110 days of dispute, politicians of the world's oldest republic have agreed to dissolve parliament and hold early elections in an attempt to end San Marino's longest postwar political crisis. The key of the election, set around mid-May, lies with one third of San Marino's 19,000 voters, many of them American immigrants scattered around the globe.

Guatemalan minister leads presidential poll

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, March 6 (AP). — Gen. Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, a former Defence Minister, took a decisive vote lead today in the race for president in one of the quietest national elections here in nearly four decades.

UFO sighted in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 6 (AP). — A low-flying unidentified flying object, described by eye-witnesses as resembling a "shining yellow ball," was reported sighted over southern Iraq yesterday. The object flew in a southeasterly direction below a jetliner that was passing overhead at the same time, the witnesses said. One of the witnesses related that the object was "slowly moving, leaving a shining trail behind it, but making no noise at all."

After Czechs, space to see Poles, E. Germans

PRAGUE, March 6 (AP)

— A Czechoslovakian astronaut will soon be followed into space by Poles and East Germans, while candidates from other European communist countries and Cuba are already in training, Czechoslovak journalists were told at a news conference here today.

No launching dates have been announced, but informed sources say a Polish astronaut is to be launched in May and an East German two months later.

Czechoslovakia's second astronaut, Oldrich Pelcak, is likely to go into space

before the end of the year, according to the sources.

With at least one year's training required, the new candidates for space are not likely to go into action before 1979, but all are to go up by 1983, sources said.

France shows leftward tilt one week before elections

By Edward Cody

PARIS (AP). — M. Marcel Trillat, a young Communist militant sitting tieless and relaxed, looks straight into the camera. "Can things really change?" he asks his fellow Frenchmen.

"Yes, they can," he answers himself with quiet persuasion, going on to explain in the television advertisement that voting Communist in France's two-round parliamentary elections March 12 and 19 is the way to make it happen.

A growing number of France's 52 million people believe their country should indeed change and are willing to let a leftwing government give it a try. Opinion polls say that for the first time a majority plans to vote for Socialist and Communist candidates in an attempt to put the belief into practice.

But wait and see

The polls could be wrong. London bookmakers say they are. Or the sentiment they mirror could revert to traditional French conservatism when voters get into the booths. But there is broad agreement here that leftist political fortunes have surged markedly against the ruling centre-right coalition since the last parliamentary elections in 1973.

The leftward tilt reflects swift, often brutal changes in

French society that have made the 33 million eligible French voters younger and more urban than ever before — precisely at a time when economic hardship is striking the young and the urban.

France's revitalised Socialist Party has dipped into the economic discontent to draw new support from white-collar workers and low-level executives, who have become more numerous as France evolves from a rural to an industrial country.

Broad Socialism

"I don't think much of socialism and even less of Mitterrand, but I'm voting Socialist because I want a change," said one Paris office worker.

Socialist chief Francois Mitterrand, the bookish son of a railwayman, has polished his party image until it symbolises the hope of many such moderate but dissatisfied voters for "socialism with a human face."

Combined with traditional union-based worker strength, the recent converts have broadened the party to a point where polls say it commands just under 30 per cent of the electorate.

The Roman Catholic Church, long a fortress of conservative politics in France, has lost influence in such traditional strongholds as Brittany and Alsace-Lorraine. In some areas, liberal young Catholic groups have even joined the left.

M. Mitterrand also has engineered a now-strained alliance with the Communist Party. French Communists have long drawn about 20 per cent of the vote, but only in recent years have they shed their Stalinist image enough to become politically "respectable" allies.

This has permitted Mr. Mitterrand — for the first time since the 1930s — to create a leftist front enjoying support from Communist rank and file while at the same time attracting new support from the centre.

Leftist front lives

If the alliance works, Socialist and Communist candidates will strike deals between the first and second rounds of voting by which the weaker candidate in each district will withdraw to give the better vote-getter a unified leftist endorsement.

In-fighting and clumsiness in the ruling coalition also smoothed the way. President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Premier, economist Raymond Barre, has preached austerity to cure France's economic ills, while leftist candidates have promised better times by nationalising key industries and putting unemployed youths on the government payroll.

Lower voting age

March 12 will mark the first

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